

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/764,844

Examiner

PHAN T.H. PALMER

Applicant(s)

MONTENA, NOAH

Art Unit

2874

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01/26/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Phan T. H. Palmer
PHAN T. H. PALMER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
06/30/2005

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT *amdt/PRHP*

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows: in page 4 of specification, on lines 21, after "Serial No. 10/686,204 filed October 15, 2003" inserted --now U.S. Patent No. 6,884,113--.

REASON FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the claims are allowable over prior art of record because none of the references in alone or in combination disclose:

+++ A connector device for securing a fiberoptic cable, which cable includes a cable sheath, inner sheathing, and a plurality of break-out tubes, to an equipment port, comprising:

- a body of generally cylindrical form having a first section with an inner diameter and a connection portion at a first end of said body;

- a seal in said body at a second end of said body defining a cavity between said seal and said connection portion, said seal having an outer diameter slightly greater than said inner diameter of said body such that a compression fit is formed between said seal and said body;

- a shoulder disposed on an inner surface of said seal such that said cable sheath abuts said shoulder;

- an epoxy material in said cavity surrounding portions of said inner sheathing and said plurality of break-out tubes disposed inside said cavity; and

- driving means, connected to said second section of said body, for driving said seal into said body, as discloses in claim 1.

+++ A method of assembling a connector for mounting a fiber optic cable to an equipment port, wherein a prepared end of said cable includes a jacket, inner sheathing inside said jacket and extending beyond said jacket, and a plurality of break-out tubes inside said inner sheathing and extending beyond said inner sheathing, said method comprising the steps of:

- providing a body having a first end connectable to an equipment port and a second end opposite said first end, wherein said body includes a cavity formed therein;

- inserting said prepared end of said cable through a seal;

- registering said cable sheath against a shoulder of said seal;

- disposing said combined seal and at least a portion of said prepared cable end into a pre-form mold;

- flowing an epoxy material into said pre-form mold and permitting said epoxy material to harden;

- removing an assembly consisting of said seal, said portion of said prepared cable end, and said hardened epoxy material from said pre-form mold;
- disposing said assembly through a second end of said body into said cavity; and securing said assembly in said body, as discloses in claim 5.

+++ A method of assembling a connector for mounting a fiber optic cable to an equipment port, wherein a prepared end of said cable includes a jacket, inner sheathing inside said jacket and extending beyond said jacket, and a plurality of break-out tubes inside said inner sheathing and extending beyond said inner sheathing, said method comprising the steps of:

- providing a body having a first end connectable to an equipment port and a second end opposite said first end, wherein said body includes a cavity formed therein;
 - mounting a seal within said second end of said body;
 - inserting said prepared end of said cable through said seal such that said inner sheathing is contained within said cavity;
 - registering said cable sheath against a shoulder of said seal;
- forcing said seal a predetermined distance into said body, whereby said prepared end of said cable is properly positioned within said body; and
- injecting an epoxy material in flowable form through said first end of said body to at least a portion of said cavity and covering all of said inner sheathing in said prepared cable end and a portion of said plurality of break-out tubes in said

prepared cable end, wherein said cable is bonded to said connector when said epoxy material hardens, as discloses in claim 9.

The underlined limitations are critically, since the epoxy bonding and sealing the connector to the fiber optic cable is significant improved. It avoid a large number of different clamps must be stocked to fit all cable sizes. It avoid using a heat-shrink tubing to secure the break-out tubing to the cable, the heat shrink process is labor cost.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CONTACT INFORMATION

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHAN T.H. PALMER whose telephone number is (571) 272-2354. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, RODNEY B. BOVERNICK can be reached on (571) 272-2344. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PTHP
06/30/2005

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